

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 6 and 7 and have canceled claim 5 as redundant after rewriting its limitations into claims 1 and 7. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Tavor U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0032077. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to the claims, as amended.

Claims 1-7, as amended, are directed to a system comprising a number of elements in combination. In representative amended claim 1, for example, the combination includes a product information management unit, a threshold setting unit, a judgment unit and a display control unit. The threshold setting unit determines whether specifications of the product information items of the criterion product indicate any of a newly set property, an omitted property and an out-of-range property when compared with specifications of the product information items of the other products. The judgment unit determines whether the specifications in the product information items of the criterion product are different from specifications in the product information items of at least one of the products managed by the product information management unit, based on the threshold value from the threshold setting unit. The display control unit generates a visually recognizable alarm display indication of the newly set property, the omitted property, or the out-of-range property in the specifications of the product information items of the criterion product based on results of the determination of the judgment unit.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite a similar combination of features. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Fig. 7 and on page 21, line 25 to page 26, line 14 of the specification. Support may also be found, for example, in original claim 5.

A similar combination is neither disclosed nor suggested by Tavor. There is no teaching or suggestion in Tavor of a combination including a threshold setting unit and a display control unit, as defined by the amended claims.

The sections relied on in Tavor, paragraphs [0023]-[0026], teach that the thresholds for product information topics must be defined with natural language words such as "sweet," "dry," etc. Thus, Tavor fails to disclose or suggest a combination that includes "setting a threshold value for product information items of a criterion product, which is provided to determine whether specifications of the product information items of the criterion product indicate any of a newly set property, an omitted property, and an out-of-range property when compared with specifications of the product information items of the products" as required by amended claims 1 and 7. The cited sections in Tavor also fail to disclose or suggest a combination including "generating a visually recognizable alarm display indication of the newly set property, the omitted property, or the out-of-range property in the specifications of the product information items of the criterion product based on results of determination of a judgment unit" as required by amended claim 1 (and claim 7 as analogous to claim 1).


Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 7 should be withdrawn. This logic also disposes of the rejections of claims 2-4 and 6, which depend from claim 1.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 116692005100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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